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OSS-432/65
13 January 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Plans and Development Staff, NPIC

ATTENTION : [] Development Branch

FROM : Chief, Photographic Intelligence Division, CIA

SUBJECT : Status Report on [] Chip Comparator

1. The subject comparator was made available to OSS/PID for evaluation, training, and operational checkout on 14 October 1964. Prior to this time, difficulties with various components prevented utilization of the entire system although we were able to become familiar with the internal mechanisms and repair procedures.

2. Since October, [] of the Operations Support Staff has been charged with the prime responsibility for the comparator. He has coordinated with TID and IPD computer personnel in assisting them in preparing programs for the comparator and has trained six PID personnel in the use of the comparator and associated read-out equipment. At the present time, training of personnel is continuing while a programmed instruction self-tutoring manual is being prepared by [] of OSS/PID with the guidance of the American Institute for Research. It is anticipated that this handbook will be available in several weeks. It will then be used to instruct all PID personnel having a need to use the comparator and will be available for use by PAG at the time that their comparator becomes operational.

3. The [] plotting accessory was successfully demonstrated on 30 December 1964. However, due to programming difficulties, this cannot yet be used simultaneously with the computer mensuration program. IPD personnel are presently working on this problem and expect to have it solved in the near future.

4. The main problem areas associated with the comparator at the present time are as follows:

- a. Fluctuations in room temperature affect the operation of the comparator to a great extent. PID is working on this problem with Logistics Branch. However, it is

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requested that future models be studied to see if internal temperature control procedures could be implemented to assist in controlling this problem.

- b. The "Y" counter is still more unstable than the "X" and requires considerably more warm-up time. It is understood that this problem will not exist in the production models on order.
- c. The microscope head mounting is not as stable as could be desired. This also has been corrected in the production models. After receipt of the production model, PID is interested in purchasing a redesigned mounting for the present instrument.

5. We wish to stress our appreciation to you and other members of your staff for the excellent and frequently time-consuming assistance you have rendered regarding the solution of the many technical and operational problems which have arisen during the past months connected with this device. This instrument promises to be one of the most useful tools ever made available to PID analysts and will make great advances in the accuracy with which our analysts can supply precise measurements to requestors and will make these measurements available on a rapid basis.

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